that in terms of Section 45MA(3) of the RBI Act, 1934, RBI is empowered to cause special audit of NBFCs and the Bank may appoint auditors to conduct special audit of NBFCs and direct the auditors to submit the report to the Bank. Accordingly, the Board for Financial Supervision has recently approved the proposal for special audit of NBFCs with asset size of Rs. 5 crore and above. The inspection by special auditors will be done as a onetime exercise in view of the need to have detailed assessment of the asset side of NBFCs.

[English]

Export of Tea to Russia

1636. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI :

SHRI SURESH PRABHU:

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated annual export of tea to Russia;

(b) whether the export of tea to Russia is expected to be reduced drastrically due to recent steep hike in duty on imported packaged tea by the Russian Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to see that Indian tea export to Russia does not put hard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The estimated export of tea to Russia In 1996-97 was 42.03 mn.kg. valued at Rs. 297.16 crore.

(b) and (c) Under a new resolution enacted by Govt. of Russia and announced by Russian State Customs Committee on 30.4.1997, Customs Duty on import of all packets teas (both black & green) was increased from existing rate of 10% to 20% w.e.f. 1st June, 1997.

The Increase in duty is likely to affect packet tea imports into Russia from major exporting countries including India.

(d) The Russian authorities have been requested to review, the Increase in customs duty on packet tea so that export of packet tea from India is not adversely affected.

Export Committee Under DGFT

1637. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up any Export Committee under DGFT to recommend measures to boost the exports by small scale units as outcome of the sluggish export performance at small scale sector in the recent period;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures proposed to be taken to harness huge export potential of small scale sector;

(c) the details of action plan worked out for 1997-98 for boosting the export performance; and

(d) the steps taken to strengthen Regulatory Monitoring mechanism to ensure that the financial exchanges under various schemes are not misused?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Core Group on exports in the small scale sector has been set up under the Chairmanship of DGFT on 1.7.97 The Core Group has members from the government, trade and industry. The first meeting of the Core Group will be held shortly.

(c) Based upon the recommendation of the Core Group, an action plan would be drawn up for promotion of exports from SSI sector;

(d) A number of offices of DGFT have been computerized. Steps have been taken to computerize the offices have not been computerized so far. Regular monitoring under various schemes is being carried out.

Rehabilitation of Indian Bank

1638. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised rehabilitation package of Indian Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) whether the Indian Bank has imporved its performance during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Indian Bank has prepared a draft strategic Revival Plan. Scrutiny of the Revival Plan has been initiated with a view to its finalisation.

(c) The balance sheet of the Indian Bank for the year 1996-97 has not yet been published. RBI has given Indian Bank time till 15th August 1997 for publishing the balance sheet for 1996-97.

Foreign Exchange for Shipping Sector

1639. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to earmark foreign exchange annually for the acquisition of ships;